Claims

[c1] A method for operating a temperature controlled device, said method comprising the steps of:
detecting a human presence status; and
controlling a temperature of the temperature controlled device based upon the detected status.

[c2] A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of detecting a human presence status comprises the step of detecting a human presence status utilizing at least one of a motion detector, an infrared sensor, and a vibration sensor.

[c3] A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of detecting a human presence status comprises the step of detecting a human presence utilizing a motion detector.

[c4] A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of detecting a human presence status comprises the step of detecting a human presence status in an area proximate to the temperature controlled device.

[c5] A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of detecting a human presence comprises the step of detecting a human presence in an area distant to the temperature controlled device.

[c6] A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of controlling a temperature comprises the steps of:
specifying a first temperature of the temperature controlled device comprising a cooling device when the detected status is human present; and
specifying a second temperature of the temperature controlled device when the detected status is human absent, the second temperature higher than the first temperature.

[c7] A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of controlling a temperature comprises the steps of:
specifying a first temperature of the temperature controlled device comprising a cooling device when the detected status is human present; and

specifying a second temperature of the temperature controlled device after detecting a human absent status for a predetermined period of time, the second temperature higher than the first temperature.

[c8] A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of controlling a temperature comprises the step of turning off the temperature controlled device when the detected status is human absent.

[c9] A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of controlling a temperature comprises the step of turning off the temperature controlled device after detecting a human absent status for a predetermined period of time.

[c10] A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of controlling a temperature comprises the steps of:
specifying a temperature of the temperature controlled device when the detected status is human present; and
turning off the temperature controlled device when the detected status is human absent.

[c11] A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of controlling a temperature comprises the steps of:
specifying a temperature of the temperature controlled device when the detected status is human present; and
turning off the temperature controlled device after detecting a human absent status for a predetermined period of time.

[c12] A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of controlling a temperature comprises the steps of:
specifying a first temperature of the temperature controlled device comprising a heating device when the detected status is human present; and
specifying a second temperature of the temperature controlled device when the detected status is human absent, the second temperature lower than the first temperature.

[c13] A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of controlling a temperature comprises the steps of:

specifying a first temperature of the temperature controlled device comprising a heating device when the detected status is human present; and
turning off the temperature controlled device after detecting a human absent status for a predetermined period of time.

[c14] A method for fabricating a temperature controlled device, said method comprising:
providing a human presence detector; and
coupling the human presence detector to the temperature controlled device such that the temperature controlled device is controlled based on a human presence status.

[c15] A method according to Claim 14 wherein said step of providing a human presence detector comprises the step of providing at least one of a motion detector, an infrared sensor, and a vibration sensor.

[c16] A method according to Claim 14 wherein said step of coupling the human presence detector comprises coupling the human presence detector to the temperature controlled device comprising a cooling device.

[c17] A method according to Claim 14 wherein said step of coupling the human presence detector comprises coupling the human presence detector to the temperature controlled device comprising a heating device.

[c18] A method for fabricating a control unit for a temperature controlled device, said method comprising the steps of:
providing a control unit; and
coupling a human detector to the control unit such that the control unit controls the temperature controlled device based on a human presence status.

[c19] A control unit for control of a temperature controlled device, said control unit comprising a human detector.

[c20] A control unit according to Claim 19 wherein said human detector comprises at least one of a motion detector, an infrared sensor, and a vibration sensor.

[c21] A control unit according to Claim 19 wherein said control unit configured to

control the temperature controlled device based on a human presence status.

[c22] A control unit according to Claim 21 wherein said control unit further configured to:
control the temperature controlled device at a first temperature when said human detector detects a human present status; and
control the temperature controlled device at a second temperature when said human detector detects a human absent status.

[c23] A control unit according to Claim 22 wherein said second temperature higher than said first temperature.

[c24] A control unit according to Claim 22 wherein said second temperature lower than said first temperature.

[c25] A control unit according to Claim 19 wherein said detector configured to detect a human presence status in an area proximate said control unit.

[c26] A control unit according to Claim 19 wherein said detector configured to detect a human presence status in an area distant said control unit.

[c27] A control unit according to Claim 21 wherein said control unit further configured to:
control the temperature controlled device at a first temperature when said human detector detects a human present status; and
control the temperature controlled device at a second temperature after said human detector detects a human absent status for a predetermined period of time.

[c28] A control unit according to Claim 21 wherein said control unit further configured to:
control the temperature controlled device at a first temperature when said human detector detects a human present status; and
turn off the temperature controlled device when said human detector detects a human absent status.

[c29] A control unit according to Claim 21 wherein said control unit further

configured to:

control the temperature controlled device at a first temperature when said human detector detects a human present status; and

turn off the temperature controlled device after said human detector detects a human absent status for a predetermined period of time.